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WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1917-EIGHTEEN PAGES.

# **NEW AND AGGRESSIVE STEPS** TO SAFEGUARD U. S. SHIPS ARE NOW BEING PLANNED

President May Call Congress in Session Before FIFTEN MISSING April 16---Active Campaign to Clear Shipping Lanes of Submarines Is Contemplated.

Measure To Supplement Arming of U. S. Merchantmen Almost Certain---Most Of American Fleet Needed in Waters Near Coast.

President Wilson made another personal visit to the State, War and Navy building this afternoon, and there were outward indications that some new definite action was impending as the result of the latest destruction of American ships by German submarines.

President Wilson conferred with Secretary Daniels, it was understood, about the issue of \$150,000,000 in bonds for hurrying naval construction because of national emergency. There was no official announcement, however, to confirm this.

New and aggressive action to protect American shipping against German submarine appears certain as a result of yesterday's sinking of the crews, were aboard the three of three unarmed American merchantmen with possible loss of Memphis and Illinois, sunk by Germa

Calling of Congress in extra session, before April 16, loomed as the strongest probability, although President Wilson was understood ing from the Vigilancia. The crews of to have other courses under consideration.

With American ships already being armed, the most probable step would be an active campaign to clear submarines out of the shipping lanes. There appeared to be no plan to have the United day evening and the crew was given States enter the war in the sense that the European nations have

The fact that some American ships are on the other side of the ccean unarmed is a factor in the situation, and as large warships are ineffective against submarines, the problem for the government were fifty-seven men in her crew. is to get small submarine chasers. Most of the American fleet is

of American ships would be taken, and the only question was whether the President would take such steps on his own responsibility or wait for Congress to grant specific authority.

No comment was made at the White House today beyond the saved no details had been received here take a secret ballot on the proposals o statement that the President was getting reports and considering early today regarding the destruction that company for a working agreement of the Illinois. She was reported merely The company offered a sliding scale of the question thoroughly.

Secretary Lansing was called to the White House by President was a tank ship owned by the Texas present minimum of 23 cents and the Ison early today, and they discussed the policy of the government. Oil Company. She left Port Arthur, present maximum of 27 cents. Neither Tex. February 17, for London, with a the Capital Traction officials nor the em-

Dispatches from the various battle fronts took on added inter- full cargo. There were sixteen Amerest today, as officials realized that the United States is practically certain to become involved in hostilities with Germany. The War Her entire crew consisted of thirty-five posals. Both sides stated they were un and Navy departments particularly were confronted anew with problems of precisely what plans they shall follow if war comes.

ton today expressed the opinion that the German submarines' latest was received in a cablegram Saturday acts constitute a clear cause for war.

Ship Carried No Guns.

"Carried no gun. No attempt to re

sist escape. When captain is located

"Survivors here include First Office:

Charles G. Laird, Chief Engineer W. I.

Percy, Assistant Engineer Fred Bevil,

Third Officer M. J. Dierlam, Third En

gineer W. M. Thompson, P. J. Donohue

and T. J. Welch, wireless operators,

and eight other Americans, ten Span

lards, two Danes and one each Swede

MAIL BAGS ARE RIFLED

Ocean Steamship Company

OF WASHINGTON MAIL

NEW YORK, March 19.-Twenty-six

the British embassy at Washington

COURT GRANTS DIVORCE

NEW YORK, March 19.-It became

known today that a divorce has been granted Mrs. William F. McCombs from

her husband, former chairman of the

democratic national committee. Mrs.

Russian \_ad Chilean.

arrival here today.

# Illinois Insured for \$250,000.

The American steamer Illinois, sunk vesterday by a German submarine, was insured by the government's war risk bureau for \$250,000. The government had issued no insurance on the City of

A second dispatch from Consul Frost said the ship's papers had been found and reiterated the possibility that the captain and other missing had been taken aboard a friendly craft without wireless or by a German submarine.

"No news yet of Capt. Borum, City of Mempnis. Ship's papers found today in biscuit tin in captain's boat. which was picked up 11 a.m., 18th. Boat showed sig s hasty abandonment, disercoats, etc., with white silk handkerchief at mas head as flag, showing boat not abandoned until daybreak. It is barely possible that all nine of boat were taken by German submarine, but more probably by some friendly craft having no wireless."

# Memphis' Crew Believed Safe.

The following dispatch, undated reached the State Department very late last night and was given out to-

Thirty-three survivors City of Memphis do not include Capt. L. P. Borum the Cunard liner Saxonia upon her and four other Americans and four

three miles on starboard quarter, vessel was stopped, submarine approaching striking vessel, ship then only being able to read submarine's signal to able to read submarine's signal to abandon ship. Instantly captain replied by long blast whistle signifying comprehension, then gave four short blasts, signal to crew to take to boats immediately, which was done in five minutes, about 4:15. No injuries. Submarine then came up, haited captain's boat, fired eight shots, sinking vessel about 4:40 pm. appagent time conversation: 4:40 p.m. apparent time conversation; captain's boat at present unknown. Weather heavy, southwest swell, moderate southwest breeze, sky squally; weather improved during night. First officer's boat picked up by admiralty democratic national committee. Ship 3:45 a.m. today. Chief engineer's boat 6:30 a.m. today by same vessel. Liams of Washington. They were handed Queenstown 4:30 p.m. today

# FROM THREE SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

Vigilancia Torpedoed Without Warning and Memphis Shelled: No Illinois Details.

AID IN REACHING LAND REFUSED BY SUBMARINES

Commander of German Craft Tells Sailors He Hasn't Time to Help Them Despite Bad Sea.

NEW YORK, March 19.-Eighty-fiv Americans, comprising a large majority American steamers, Vigilancia, City o the blockade zone. The latest informa tion here is that fifteen men are miss the Illinois and the City of Memphi

were landed safely. The City of Memphis left Cardiff. More Than 300 Men Meet to Nicholas May Be Permitted Teutonic Retirement Is Along a Wales, Friday in ballast for New York. She encountered the submarine Saturfifteen minutes to take to the boats. The vessel was owned by the Ocean \$600,000. She left New York January 23 with a cargo of cotton, which was DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The Vigilancia was torpedoed without needed at home to guard against operation of German submarines in American waters.

TO SUPPLEMENT ARMING OF SHIPS.

There seemed to be no doubt that steps to supplement arming

There seemed to be no doubt that steps to supplement arming

The vigilancia was torpedoed without warning, according to the survivors' story and the submarine did not appear. She carried a crew of forty-five men, twenty-one of whom were Americans. Thirty-one of these have been landed at the Scilly Islands. The Vigilancia salled from New York February 28, with a cargo consisting in part of provisions and valued at nearly \$750,-

as having been "sunk." The Illinois ficers and eight members of the crew At the office of Gaston, Williams & Wigmore, owners of the Vigilancia, it Many senators and representatives who remained in Washing- was said their last word of the vessel the Azores, for additional bunker coal. The cargo of the vessel was shipped by Barber & Co., and consisted, in part, without accident. City of Memphis car-ried wireless but did not use it. of iron, copper, spelter, machinery and foodstuffs. The value of the cargo was placed at close to \$1,000.000. The ship was insured for \$600,000 through Ameri-

was insured for \$600,000 through American underwriters.

A cablegram saying that all but one boat from the steamer City of Memphis had reported safe, and that it was expected the missing boat, in which the captain took refuge, would soon be accounted for, was received here today by the Ocean Steamship Company.

# Fifteen Listed as Missing.

LONDON, March 19.-Fifteen mer from the American steamer Vigilancia sunk by a German submarine, are now listed as missing. The American erabassy learns that the submarine fired gamated, were also present. two torpedoes at the Vigilancia. The first missed by a considerable distance. It was followed immediately by the second, which found the mark.

Announcement was made in afterward would be pensecond, which found the mark. "City of Memphis was stopped by submarine February 4, off Scilly Islands. Failure to use wireless this time was due to experience of former occasion inducing belief that ship would probably be passed if wireless not started. Survivors are assembled Oueenstown pending instructions from Given Fifteen Minutes to Get Off.

The City of Memphis encountered a submarine about 5 o'clock Saturday evening. The German commander ordered the captain of the steamer to leave his ship within fifteen minutes. The entire crew entered five boats and the submarine then fired a torpedo which struck the vessel on the starboard side, tearing a great hole, through which the sea poured. The mail bags addressed to Washington and steamer settled down quickly and were found to have been rifled on board foundered within a few minutes.

Third Engineer Thompson of the

City of Memphis, in an interview with the Central News, said that the sub and four other Americans and four non-Americans, but indications are that they are safe on board some merchant or admiralty vessel which has no wireless. Captain's boat did not separate from others till 1 a.m. today, and was picked up empty at 10 a.m., weather meanwhile remaining moderate.

"Vessel cleared Cardiff 18th in ballast with fifty-eight persons, including twenty-nine Americans. At 3:55 p.m. If the submarine fired warning shot from three miles on starboard quarter, vestime that the submarine fired a warning shot for the containing the official mail were disturbed. Postal inspectors who boarded the ship at quarantine in response to a wireless message from the captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife captain were informed as were informed and the sail to sail the captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife captain were informed as were informed and the sail that the submarine fired a warning shot for the containing the official mail were disturbed. Postal inspectors who boarded the ship at quarantine in response to a wireless message from the captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife captain were informed as were informed as were informed as were informed. After the robbery was discovered Sunday the mails were informed and two captain and one steerage passenger, suspected, were examined. No clue was uncovered, and the passengers were to slow down, and subsequently signaled for her to stop and for the captain were informed the ship. Then followed a which began to sink. Then followed a the vessel, which began to sink. Then followed as the vessel to tremble all over, and within the captain were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife. After the robbery was discovered Sunday the mails were informed the looted sacks had been ripped open with a knife. Then

When the Saxonia docked uniformed police were at the pier, and it was reported several passengers were under surveillance.

# Asked for the Captain.

Capt. Borum briefly consulted with he officers after the Germans ordered TO MRS. W. F. McCOMBS because it was intended to sink her, said Thompson. All agreed that there was no alternative. After describing the sinking of the steamer Thompson

"When the ship had been destroyed the German commander approached ou boat and asked for the captain, but none of our lads answered him. He then went from boat to boat until he



# CAPITAL TRACTION OFFERS MORE PAY TO ITS EMPLOYES

Consider "Working Agreement" Submitted.

NOT GIVEN TO PUBLIC

Understood Sliding Scale of Wages Offers to Better Minimum and Maximum Amounts Now Paid.

More than 300 employes of the Capita Traction Company met in the hall of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators at 6th and G streets, this morning, to The company offered a sliding scale of wages, higher at both ends than the proposals to the men would give any information about the details of the pro der an ironclad agreement not to do so. It was understood that the scale oftered sets three instead of five classes
of pay, and that the minimum is 24
cents and the maximum 29 cents. Members of the committee declined to affirm or deny this report.
About seventy-five employes of the
Washington Railway and Electric
Company sought to gain admission to
the meeting. They were refused.
Many of them complained, on the
ground that they are members of the
same local as the Capital Traction
men, and because any agreement
reached with that company, they
argued, would affect their fight for
higher pay with the Washington Railway and Electric Company.

Processions to Avoid "Leak." It was understood that the scale of

# Precautions to Avoid "Leak."

Utmost precautions were taken to avoid a "leak." The Washington Railway and Electric men were represented by George A. Wilburt, president of the union, and Frank Shea, national officers of the Amal-

gamated, were also present.

Announcement was made that members of the union who talked about the meeting afterward would be penalized.

The result of the meeting this morning, and a second to be held at the same place at 8:30 o'clock this evening, will not be announced until the committee informs officials of the Capital Traction Company about it tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

At a mass meeting, held at the apartments of Mrs. Charles Edward Russell in the Ethelhurst this morning a group of women, sympathizing with the strikers, voted to organize a boycott of the lines of the Washington Railway and Electric Company. They also made plans for a series of parlor meetings in various sections of the city, to urge other women to join in the boycott.

Retter Hours Offered.

# Better Hours Offered.

Better terms in respect to hours also posed by the Capital Traction Company officials. These were so complicated, being discussed in interrelated sections of the agreement read to the professed not to understand them. The meeting was in session about

two hours. It was not expected to years ago. He was reported today as last more than an hour. Heated discussion took place, it was learned about the acceptance of the proposals. The grand duke is being attended by and many of the Capital Traction men, his mother and the old sailor Dereon coming away, told friends they were venko, who has been his constant com-

D. C. Not to Operate Lines. There is no probability of the Disdissioners taking over lines of the Washington Railway and

# DEPOSED EMPEROR NOW ON HIS WAY TO CRIMEAN EXILE

Eventually to Reside in Some Other Country.

RUSSIAN ARMIES PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO NEW ERA

Food Shortage in Petrograd Relieved and Government Resumes Normal Functions.

### LET GERMANY BE FREE, BERLIN PAPER DEMANDS

AMSTERDAM, March 19, via London.—The Berlin Vorwaerts, omparing the situation in Russia with that in Germany, asks: "Shall the world say that all

The newspaper compares the declaration of the Russian provisional government with the declaration of Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg in the Prussian diet to the discredit of the sian diet to the discredit of the latter. It comments. "How much longer! The king should straightway give back to the Prussian people their fran-chise, which was taken away in 1848."

PETROGRAD, March 18, via London, March 19. - Nicholas Romanoff, as the former emperor grade movement is still in prognow is designated, left with his ress. staff today for his personal estates at Livadia, on the south coast of the Crimea.

# Renunciation of Michael.

The renunciation of the Grand Duke Michael was signed at his private resiby J. W. Cain. Edward McMorrow and dence, whither he went with a large part of the duma committee, headed by Prince Lvoff, Prof. Milukoff and President Rodzianko.

The grand duke addressed the committee and declared that the responsibility devolving upon him found him undecided because of the existing differences of opinion. He added that since the happiness of Russia was the only consideration, he believed this would be best assured by his abdication, and therefore, surrendered his authority. The revolution overtook the imperial family when all of the children, except the Grand Duchess Marie, were afflicted with measles. Grand Duke Alexis, the twelve-year-old erstwhile heir, who was were offered in the agreement pro- reported dead, still lives, but is very

# Old Wound Opens Up.

His attack of measles was complimen, that some of the men themselves cated by the breaking out of the old wound in his foot, dating from the alleged attempt on his life about four

on coming away, to the tree dissatisfied with the proposals.

Police of the several precincts this afternoon reported that they had experienced no trouble on the lines of the Washington Railway and Electric Company today. It was reported that a tree was thrown across the tracks of the City and Suburban line beyond the District rules of the troops reached the empress February 27. The palace guard was mobilized for defense, the reflemen reilized for defense, the reflemen reand Suburdant the beyond the District line last night.

Members of the police force are being served hot coffee at night. Maj. Pullman directed that the beverage be served because of the long hours of duty the men are required to serve due to the

voited a collision with the palace guards appeared inevitable. The em-press went to the commander of the guard and said: "My desire is that you do not fire." you do not fire."
This was taken as an order to surrender, which he did. Soon revolution-(Continued on Tenth Page.)

# GERMANS FLEEING; **VICTORIOUS ALLIES** KEEP UP PURSUI

Front Nearly One Hundred

lowing the capture of Bapaume the British have occupied Uesle, Chaulnes and Petronne.

The retirement of Field Marshal von Hindenburg's western armies has already virtually resulted in the straightening out of the famous Arras and Novon salients, and apparently the retro-

was a strip of land between the Arras district and the Aisne, which takes in virtually the entire front from a short distance south of Lille to the Soissons-Laon district.

Both the British and French are sharply following up the retreating Germans, employment of cavalry hav- decide. ing enabled the pursuit to keep in close

### On Road to St. Quentin. By the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 19, noon .- The French. closely following the retiring Germans. likely to recover. He contracted the reoccupied Cuiscard last night and at from Ham to Nesle, the war office announces. Troops were pushed along things you ever did." the national road to St. Quentin. East of Nesle the second German position was captured.

The statement says 100 villages have been reoccupied by the French in three days. Many of these towns had been Thousands of persons devastated. whom the Cormans were unable to send to the rear came forward to greet

### German Attack at Verdun. On the Verdun front the German

court and Dead Man hill, after artillery preparation. They penetrated the French lines on a front of 250 yards but were ejected from part of this

# RAILROADS GRANT BASIC 8-HOUR DAY; STRIKE IS AVERTED

Managers Surrender Completely to Brotherhoods Just as "New Day Dawns."

EMPLOYERS PUT NATION **ABOVE PRIVATE INTERESTS** 

Prove Patriotism by Ending Long Justices Day, Pitney, Van Devanter Struggle-Mediators Laud Attitude of Executives.

NEW YORK, March 19 .- The ailroad strike has been averted. Yielding to the appeal of Presi dent Wilson and facing the probability of this country's entrance into the world war, the railroads

early today granted the demands

of the four employes' brother-

hoods for a basic eight-hour day. The telegraph wires this mornng carried throughout the United States messages from the brothernood chiefs rescinding the orders for the inauguration of the great progressive strike at 7 o'clock to-

The decision is regarded as a complete surrender to the brotherhoods, brought about, however, after the patriotism of the railroad managers had been put to

Most of those present thought he, had expressed the feeling of all, for it was the first time in many years that there has been much evidence of friendly feeling between the men who run the trains and the men who manage them.

# What Men Will Receive.

The agreement signed this morning means that the brotherhoods have won an important victory. The men will receive their present ten hours' pay for eight hours' work with one-eighth of ing to enactment of the law. He did the present daily rate per hour for overtime. Their original demands calling it apparently from memory. He ed for time and a half for overtime on told of the President's efforts to avert ress.

End Not Yet in Sight.

Should the expectations of many military observers who have been watching the operation be realized, the retreat will not stop short of the powners will be held here tomornow between the railway managers and the employers accepted and the company managers and the employers retreat will not stop short of the powney between the railway managers and the employers accepted.

retreat will not stop short of the powerfully fortified line running from Lille to Laon, through the strong defensive positions of Cambral and St. Quentin.

Today's German official statement speaks of the movement with a certain note of finality, as if it were entirely completed. The previous retfrement in the Somme region, however, was marked by much such a statement made in the midst of its progress. The broad scope of the operation is succinctly indicated in the Berlin announcement that the ground evacuated was a strip of land between the Arras

son act should be found unconstitu-tional the roads then could assume the

While no understanding has been reached, it was said, a possibility existed that both sides would agree tomorrow to leave the computation to which way the highest tribunal might

# Mediators Visibly Affected.

the action of the railroad managers.

Mr. Lane sent immediately for the committee of the railroads and, turning to Elisha Lee, their spokesman, said:

"This is a magnificent thing that you have done for your country. It will go down in history as one of the greatest things you ever did."

was an inherent right and to take it away would be unconstitutional. But, he said, considering what Congress intended to do and the failure of the railroads and employes to reach an agreement, to say that the government authority did not have the power "to fill the void would be to declare that the private right." the action of the railroad managers. malady from a comrade at the front several points reached the railroad have done for your country. It will go

The brotherhood chiefs, who already had left the hotel where the conferences were being held and had retired for the night, apparently convinced that a settlement of the differences could not be reached, were for the hight, apparent of the differences that a settlement of the differences could not be reached, were summoned next. Their faces showed the relief they felt from the strain under which they had labored since early Friday evening with the President's committee. W. G. Lee, head of the trainmen, announced for them that orders would go forward at once informing all district chairmen of the brotherhoods of the successful outcome of the conferences.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

# ADAMSON ACT HELD **CONSTITUTIONAL BY** HIGHEST TRIBUNAL

ONE CENT.

Supreme Court Rules Eight-Hour Law Is Valid in All Respects.

WAGE INCREASES FIXED BY CONGRESS LEGALIZED

and McReynolds File Dissenting Opinions.

The Adamson eight-hour raiload law was held constitutional and valid in all respects today by the Supreme Court of the United The decision makes eight hours

the standard of a day's work and wages for men in operation of trains and legalizes the wage increases which went into tentative. effect on its passage.

The immediate temporary wage increases won by the railroad employes affect 400,000 trainmen as of January 1, and are estimated to total between \$40,-000,000 and \$50,000,000.

Federal Judge Hook's ruling in the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf railroad test case, enjoining enforcement of the Adamson act and holding it "unconstitutional, null and void," was reversed

Front Nearly One Hundred
Miles in Length.

The President's mediators, playing what they considered their last trump card, were not successful in their mission until after more than fifty hours of anxious conferences, all of which pointed within a short time before the decision was announced to an inevitable deadlock.

The agreement which averted the strike was signed in Secretary Lane's room at 5:15 this morning, just a few hours after the managers had agreed to abandon the long and bitter fight they have made against the protect the free flow of commerce the tension in the little group relaxed. The managers and the chiefs shook hands with one another and with each of the Washington mediators.

The sun was just touching the white group states of the Washington mediators.

The sun was just touching the white fronts of the meighboring skyscrapers with light. As the dozen brooke into little groups the room suddenly became silent when W. H. Carter of the first men, and engineers, looking out, said:

"Why, look out there. It's the dawn of a new day."

Within Power of Congress. The court's decision was 5 to 4, with Justices Day, Pitney and Van Devanter

Within Power of Congress In concurring in the majority opinion Justice McKenna differed in that he believed the law "an hour's of service" statute and only secondarily a wage fixing law, and thus within power of

### Congress. Negotiations Reviewed.

In announcing the opinion the Chief Justice reviewed the negotiations lead-

"He suggested arbitration. The employers accepted and the employes rethen suggested a basic eight-hour-day standard. The employers rejected that and the employes accepted. How the President went to Congress

was then recited. "Congress passed the law that is before us and the carriers refused to recognize it." he continued. He said the agreement to expedite the case was

"very laudaple."
In the early course of the opinion the Chief Justice said that law was poth an eight-hour act and also wage-fixing statute. He said it "strips the parties of power contract" as to wages. He said the eight-hour provision was the paramount feature. said the eight-hour provision was the paramount feature.

Regarding whether the law is an hours-of-labor or wage-fixing law, the Chief Justice said it was both. He said the question of fixing hours of labor by Congress was out of the case as uncuestioned.

# Dividing Line Marked.

"The dividing line is so marked that government will not destroy the private right," said the Chief Justice. ower to regulate rests upon both the private and public interests involved." He then inquired if it was relevant for Congress to provide for the tem-Secretary Lane and the other media-tors were visibly affected when told of private parties to fix private wages was an inherent right and to take it

# Not an "Emergency Power."

He said Congress' power was not an emergency power." He recited that congressional power to fix rates, prohibiting rebates and a "myriad of regu-

distingt a standard of regunext. Their faces showed the relief
they felt from the strain under which
they had labored since early Friday
evening with the President's committee.
W. G. Lee, head of the trainmen, announced for them that orders would
gro forward at once informing all district chairmen of the brotherhoods of
the successful outcome of the conferences.

Triple Sinking Influenced Decision.

That the crisis resulting from the sinking of three American ships by German
submarines was the prime factor in
submarines was and a "myriad of regulations" had been assarted to "protect
the public interest."

The Chief Justice said that power
had been extended-to employes, citing
the "hours of service act' and others.
He said there was authority of Congress to act because of failure of the
gress to act because of failure of the
said there was authority of Congress to act because of failure of the
said there was authority of Congress to act because of failure and others.
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He said there was and a "my sideration" for the passage of He told how the President appe